



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**New York District**

## **Fort Slocum / Davids Island, New Rochelle, New York**

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### **FACT SHEET**

**December 2007**

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#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Fort Slocum/Davids Island is an approximately 80-acre island (plus approximately 40 submerged acres) located in the Long Island Sound, approximately 0.6 miles east of the mainland of New Rochelle, New York, Congressional District NY-18. Abandoned buildings and related infrastructure from a closed military base occupy the entire island. From 1861 to 1867, the War Department leased Davids Island and constructed the DeCamp General Hospital on this site. Between 1867 and 1948, Fort Slocum was used successively as an Artillery Corps Post, General Recruiting Depot, Artillery Mortar Post, Recruit Training Post, Staging Area and Rehabilitation Center. In July 1948 Fort Slocum was transferred from the Department of the Army to the Department of the Air Force and was designated as Slocum Air Force Base. Jurisdiction transferred back to the Department of the Army on March 10, 1951. From 1951 to 1965 the mission of Fort Slocum was to provide housing and logistical support to the Defense Information School. On February 26, 1965, Fort Slocum was declared excess to the needs of the Army (Disposal Report No. 187). By quitclaim deed, dated May 11, 1967, the entire installation was conveyed to the City of New Rochelle. In May 1968, Consolidated Edison (ConEd) purchased the site from the City of New Rochelle. In the summer of 1976, ConEd sold the property back to the City of New Rochelle. The County of Westchester, of which the City of New Rochelle is a part, has expressed interest in restoring the site for use as a Park.

#### **AUTHORIZATION:**

Under H.R. 2658/P.L. 108-87 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004 (Sept. 30, 2003; 117 Stat. 1054; 56 pages), the Office of Economic Adjustment was provided \$1,500,000 by Congressional Addition in Section 18100, 8132(c) for David's Island Fort Slocum Restoration. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense may make grants and supplement other Federal funds using funds made available by this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide". The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) selected the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the executive agent for this project. An additional \$24,600,000 has been appropriated for this purpose (FY-05: \$2.6M, P.L. 108-287 ; FY-06: \$5M, P.L. 109-148; FY-07: \$9M, P.L. 109-289; FY-08: \$8M, Conference Report 110-434, Pg. H-12892]. The scope of the project includes building demolition, debris removal and establishing a staging area for the work.

Fort Slocum/Davids Island may be investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration - Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 authorized that program. Projects currently identified as eligible for the FUDS Program include the removal of underground tanks, aboveground tanks, soils contaminated with metals, transformers and abandoned waste drums. However, funding for these projects is not available at this time. Building demolition and debris removal is not authorized under the FUDS Program since this property was once owned by a private party (Consolidated Edison Company).

## CURRENT STATUS:

### Planning Activities:

An Environmental Assessment, completed in March 2005, resulted in a "Finding of No Significant Impact" for the planned demolition work. The Historical Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation was also completed in 2005, which concluded that Davids Island/Fort Slocum is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed in August 2005, which established a process for future study and consultation regarding preservation of the Island's historic properties; the signatories are the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), the City of New Rochelle and the County of Westchester, New York.

Initial archaeological field surveys were completed in October 2005, and a report was provided to NYSOPRHP for review. Additional surveys were completed in October 2006. A Preservation-in-Place study and a Salvage of Architectural Elements study was completed to determine, which, if any of the remains of the Fort Slocum should be preserved. Based on consultation with interested parties and institutions relating to Army history and harbor coastal defense, no entities were interested in acquiring any architectural elements that may be salvaged from the buildings. Consultation with the interested parties regarding potential preservation options has resulted in the development of a conceptual plan that includes consideration of approximately 18 buildings for on-site preservation measures, ranging from the demarcation of building footprints to complete restoration. The feasibility of the plan's elements is being evaluated by the City of New Rochelle.

### Demolition / Fieldwork:

A total of 69 buildings were demolished. Demolition debris and removed asbestos, with the exception of recyclable materials, are transported from Davids Island to licensed disposal facilities.

### Future Work

A draft report detailing the remaining archaeological fieldwork has been completed. The draft historic documentation of all of the buildings listed for demolition has also been prepared. We are also performing documentary research on all those structures that will remain on the island, including the mortar batteries, the seawall, the Rodman Gun and the Parade Ground. Using the results of the archaeological investigations, the documentary research and the ongoing oral history project, we are developing an educational presentation about the history and use of Davids Island. Meetings with interested parties were convened in March, May, June, August and November 2007 to continue the discussion of preservation alternatives for selected buildings, to identify additional buildings for demolition and to provide an update on the other preservation activities, including the archaeological investigations, the historic documentation and development of the educational presentation. Demolition work will continue, subject to the availability of funds and coordination with interested parties.

### **PROJECT COST:**

Estimated Federal Costs:	\$ 30,628,000*
Estimated Non- Federal Costs (New York State Brownfields Grant):	\$ 882,000
Total	\$ 31,510,000

\* This figure includes an estimated cost at completion of \$27,414,000 for the preparation of required plans and assessments, including but not limited to cultural resource, archaeological and historic preservation studies, the establishment of a staging area and demolition of all buildings and structures-- with the exception of the battery emplacements, roads & paths, parade ground, Rodman Gun Monument, tennis courts, flagpole, battery practice and seawall. This figure also includes an estimated \$3,214,000 of costs associated with the removal of underground tanks, transformers, abandoned waste drums, soils contaminated with metals, as well as aboveground storage tanks which may be addressed, subject to the availability of funds, under the FUDS Program. The estimate does *not* include costs for any building preservation activities, with the exception of the salvage of architectural elements, nor is construction of a new pier included, since use of a floating barge has been adequate for performance of our work.

### **CONTACT:**

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